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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

DAIRY DIVISION.

SILAGE—CANNED CORN—NO TIN NEEDED.

Less grain can be fed by many dairymen without reducing milk production, provided they feed more silage and legume hay. Less grain will be available for feeding to cattle, for much more than usual is needed now for human food, and the emergency demands that every effort be made for its conservation. Milk production must be maintained, hence every effort should be made to substitute other feeds for grain in the dairy ration. To do that the silo will help.

Fruits and green vegetables are canned so as to supply succulent and palatable foods to the family during the winter. Succulence is just as essential to the cow as to a human being. The abundant milk flow obtained from June pasture to a large extent is due to the succulence of the grass. Silage provides succulent feed during winter when pasture is not available. With silage in the ration dairy cattle can be kept in the condition of health common to animals on pasture. The digestive system of a cow is well suited for the utilization of large quantities of green grasses and other coarse, succulent material. Silage is palatable, and no other feed will combine so well with dry hay and a little grain to produce maximum economical results.

Siloing is an excellent way of preserving the mature corn crop or of saving one which for any reason must be harvested before maturity. About 40 per cent of the total food material in the corn plant is in the stalks and leaves. When the farmer harvests only the ears he loses nearly one-half of the crop; on the other hand, when the crop is put into the silo the losses are very small. When drought, frost, or insects attack a field of corn before it is ripe, the entire crop may be lost unless the farmer has a silo ready in which to preserve it.

No feed crops can be so successfully harvested under widely varying conditions as those that are put into the silo. Only in case of drought or frost is it necessary to rush the filling of the silo; rain or dew on the forage does not injure the silage.

The silo at all times, and particularly now, offers to the farmer one of the best means of reducing his feed bills. The present great national emergency places these questions before every farmer who keeps cattle: Have you a silo? If you have not, your herd is not most economically fed; why not build a silo and fill it before frost comes? If you have one, is it big enough to supply all the silage your cattle can eat before the next crop is harvested? If not, build another! You can buy one ready to erect, or you can build it yourself at small cash expenditure. Homemade silos of concrete or wood can be erected with little trouble.

Call on the extension department of your State agricultural college for any assistance that you may need in this respect. If the college is unable to help you, write to the Dairy Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for bills of material with full specifications for silos of different dimensions. They will cost you nothing. Will you not build a silo and do your part to prepare the Nation for the largest and most economical dairy production possible?